

Let’s Go to Hookah!

**PERRY UWANAWICH**  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Belly dancers, Spanish guitars and Moroccan themed décor often add to the appeal of the increasingly trendy hookah bars scattered around South Florida.

“I am not into hookahs but breathe in the culture,” said Lisa Vignola, junior business administration and marketing major. “It’s not just a fad or a hang-out, it’s an experience and adds a mood and tone of a different culture and lifestyle.”

When one thinks of a hookah, the image of a caterpillar smoking atop a mushroom in “Alice in Wonderland” comes to mind, but “tobacciana” has transformed this water pipe into to the beloved pastime it is today. Social smoking at lounges and hookah bars gathers patrons for conversation over hookah and coffee, tea or other drinks.

Hookahs are glass or brass pipes with hoses used to smoke “nakila shisha,” flavored tobacco mixed with molasses and dried fruit. The smoke is passed from a bowl

containing the tobacco with a hot coal atop it through water, and finally through the hose where it is breathed in by patrons.

The effect is said to be different than cigarettes in that it is more calming and soothing and less addictive. Hookahs, in history, were used to smoke opium and hashish, developed in Western India and evolved, becoming more intricate and aesthetically appealing, as they passed through

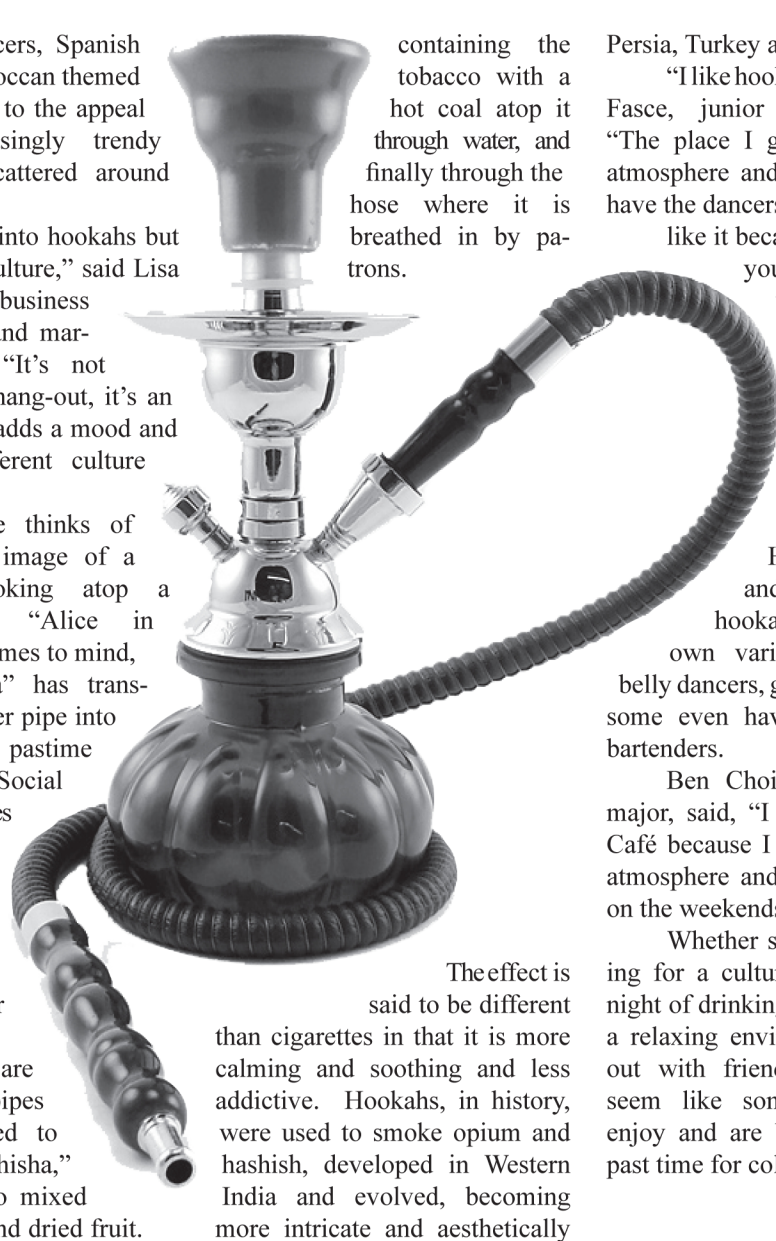
Persia, Turkey and Middle Asia.

“I like hookah,” said Silvana Fasce, junior finance major. “The place I go to has a cute atmosphere and décor, and they have the dancers, which is cool. I like it because it’s cozy and you can have conversation.”

For t Lauderdale has many places to experience hookah, such as the Arabica Café or Off the Hookah restaurant and night club. Each hookah place offers its own variety of cabanas, belly dancers, go-go dancers and some even have fire breathing bartenders.

Ben Choi, junior biology major, said, “I like the Arabica Café because I like the relaxing atmosphere and the good music on the weekends.”

Whether students are looking for a cultural experience, a night of drinking and dancing, or a relaxing environment to hang out with friends, hookah bars seem like something students enjoy and are becoming a new past time for college students.



One Republic Has Your Wake-Up Call

**JUAN GALLO**  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Writing a song is not easy. Writing a “hit” song is even harder. No one knows that better than Ryan Tedder, lead singer of the band One Republic. Tedder has been making hits for years now and shows no signs of slowing down. As proof of this, there is the band’s sophomore album “Waking Up.”

One Republic made a name for themselves when they teamed up with mega-producer Timbaland and released “Apologize” as the first single off of their debut album, “Dreaming Out Loud.” “Apologize” went on to become one of the best selling and chart-topping single of the past decade. It remained at number one on the U.S. Top 40’s chart for five months until it was dethroned by Leona Lewis’ “Bleeding Love,” which ironically, Tedder co-wrote and produced.

This time around, Timbaland is nowhere to be found, but I do not think One Republic is too concerned about that. One thing is clear about the sound that the band creates, and that is its uniqueness. It can almost be said that Tedder is the poster child for music today. As a lyricist Tedder is decent, but it is his abilities in composing, producing and his innovative sound that set him apart from the rest.

“Waking Up” is a fantastic album in that it allows this incredibly talented band to flex all of their muscle. For the most part, their music is pretty energetic, even in their slower ballads. There is nothing typical about their sound, and whether it is the string accompaniment on “Fear,” or the rolling snare drum on “All This Time,” the songs are beautifully arranged and made great by the different elements they use to create their sound.

On this album, One Republic carefully straddles the line between pop and rock. On the title track “Waking Up,” the



Courtesy of Interscope Records

band inhabits more of the rock sound, but a U2-type rock. Then, on songs like “Secrets,” they get into more of the pop sound that is reminiscent of songs Tedder has written for other artists like “Halo” for Beyonce or “Battlefield” for Jordin Sparks.

As far as lyrics go, the themes are pretty generic; love, fame, loneliness, that sort of thing. This is a plus when it comes to some of the romantic love songs that Tedder writes, as their melodies are catchy and easy for many people to relate to. He writes songs that are so universal, even many female recording artists can adapt them.

One Republic is a noteworthy band that is definitely worth your attention. They are making quality, modern music that is driven by the seemingly limitless talents of this gifted, do-it-all musician and lead-singer, Tedder.

While “Waking Up” is not flawless, as tracks like “Everybody Loves Me” and “Good Life” are easily forgettable, those are painlessly overlooked and blotted out by some really great tracks, such as “All the Right Moves” and “Marchin’ On.”

“Waking Up” is available now for sale wherever music is sold and it is definitely an album that you want to invest some money in.

**Standout Tracks:**

- “All the Right Moves”
- “Marchin’ On”
- “Secrets”
- “All This Time”

Site of the week

**ANNARELY RODRIGUEZ**  
NEWS EDITOR

Sometimes you just can’t find what to do. You get online and realize you have watched the video of the woman on the toilet too many times and need something new. Here are five Web sites to help you pass the time... maybe too much time.

**www.CollegeHumor.com**

Well, you are in college now which means you get to do college things like staying up until 5 a.m. studying for a test, writing 15-page papers, and eating a healthy diet of day-old pizza and soda. But there are other things you get to do now, like watch CollegeHumor. The site does have some content not appropriate for all ages, but that is not what makes it college-y. Founded in 1999, the site currently has a staff of over 50 college students who provide funny original and streamed videos, articles, pictures and all type of media in one convenient site.

The site has become so popular that two of its members, Amir Blumendfeld and Streeter Seidell, recently got a show on MTV after a series of pranks they played on one another got recognition from the network. “Prank Wars” started when Streeter posted a video of Amir singing Stacy’s mom.... actually, I’m not going to tell you, you have to watch all eight hilarious and escalating pranks.

**www.AcidCow.com**

A trippy name is not the only thing that makes this site interesting. It is their pictures, accompanying articles, and videos that leave you in shock. There is one major setback to the site. While its content is quite interesting its presentation is cluttered. The home page is just a series of articles and pictures randomly uploaded with the videos at the bottom of the page. However, they do have tabs that separate the main content into

pictures, videos, celebs, and other categories.

**www.StumbleUpon.com**

I was introduced to this Web site about two months ago by someone else who works in the newspaper and since then my life has not been the same. I purposely left this site for last because it is just too awesome. You have probably heard of this site before but if you have not this is what you are missing: the entire Internet. Through www.StumbleUpon.com you can see what is interesting on the Web with just the click of a button.

You do not need a subscription to the site but I recommend having one since you are bound to find something so cool you will want to “favorite” it and look at it again and again. Having an account also allows you to set your preferences so that more of the stuff you enjoy shows up when you stumble. StumbleUpon also separates your favorites per category and occasionally sends you a list of sites recommended just for you. But keep in mind that you do not need an account to see what is awesome and interesting on the Web, just to filter it. Finally, I must say that this site comes with a warning for you are very likely to spend hours stumbling upon a plethora of content.

Get Into Sudoku

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from one to nine inclusively.

	8			3				5
		7						
6								2
					3			
7				1				
			2					
8		2					5	
4				2				7

Created by J. Calle